

Let

*Levitt and Sons*  
LEVITTOWN, NEW JERSEY  
TRIANGLE 7-1100

For Appendix  
✓ Yes Lane

IRA C. GOLDMAN  
VICE-PRESIDENT AND  
GENERAL COUNSEL

June 29, 1959

Honorable David D. Furman  
Attorney-General, State of New Jersey  
Trenton, New Jersey

My dear Mr. Attorney-General:

The recent decision by the United States Supreme Court terminates our litigation to test the validity and applicability of the New Jersey housing anti-discrimination law. We intend to comply fully with this law, and we believe that every other builder and developer in the State will do likewise.

We assume that in due course the Division Against Discrimination will enter its administrative order, as provided in the stipulation of November 23, 1959. We see no reason for a court order unless and until there is some substantial evidence of a failure on our part to comply with the Division's order, and compulsion through the courts then becomes necessary. This should not occur because, as we have stated, we have every intention of complying.

In any event, certain practical elements of administration should be considered and we believe that they should be pointed out now.

It is most unlikely that any considerable number of non-white families in the metropolitan area of which Levittown is a part will be financially qualified to purchase homes in our company's price range. Recent studies by nearby institutional authorities of the highest repute indicate that hardly more than one per cent of the homes in such a community as Levittown would be within the purchasing power of the non-white market.

We must nevertheless anticipate the possibility that, at least in the immediate future, many more non-whites will apply than are financially qualified. A large proportion of these applicants will necessarily have to be rejected for this reason and only for this reason. Among these properly rejected applicants may be some whose disappointment might impel them to complain that they were in fact rejected for other and improper reasons. This will, of course, not be the case. But they may nevertheless take their complaints to the State agency. It would be most unfortunate if a formal

court or agency proceeding were immediately to be instituted without giving us an opportunity to check within our company on the facts involved in the complaint and report promptly to the Division or to your office in justification or correction, as the case might be, of the act complained of. If the claims were then not reconcilable, you could initiate whatever proceedings you deemed appropriate.

For your information, there are enclosed two copies each of two memoranda about to be distributed to our employees.

While there is nothing confidential about this letter, we will take no steps to publicize it at this time. You, of course, are perfectly free to deal with it as you see fit. We are enclosing an extra copy which you might want to send to Julius Wildstein on behalf of all the counsel who appeared for the individuals in the lawsuit.

Should this letter find its way into non-official hands, it would be important for us to state that our having written it does not impliedly admit any previous non-compliance with the law. It cannot be too often pointed out that there has never been any trial of the discriminatory acts charged against us, nor any adjudication that we have committed any such acts.

Very truly yours,

IRA G. GOLDMAN

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Enclosures